



ZIA Annual Conference 2019

DUBAI, 3-5 September

Park Hyatt, Dubai Creek, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



ZIA AGM & Annual Conference

Programme of events

Tuesday 3rd September

Site visit to RAK Ceramics and Ceramin at Ras Al-Khaimah
(Details will be provided to those delegates that have signed-up to the tour)
Departure from, and return to, the Park Hyatt Dubai Creek hotel

Wednesday 4th September

08:00 - 13:00 Registration desk open
08:30 - 09:30 ZIA Board Meeting: Khansa boardroom (members only)
10:00 - 11:30 ZIA Annual General Meeting of the Assembly: Mahara Room (members only)

Day 1: Zircon - where to next for downstream users?

12:00 - 13:00 • Lunch (all conference delegates) •
13:00 - 13:15 Welcome, opening remarks, antitrust compliance and safety briefing
13:15 - 13:45 Keynote address: Abdallah Massaad (CEO, RAK Ceramics)
13:45 - 14:15 Zircon supply / demand review: Lincoln Ying (CEO, Matrix)
14:15 - 14:45 Zircon market dynamics: Gavin Diener (CEO, TZMI)
14:45 - 15:15 Outlook for Chinese zircon market: Beth Xiang (Ruidow)
15:15 - 15:30 • Interval: tea / coffee / networking •
15:30 - 16:00 Architectural design trends to watch in 2020: Deepak Prabakaran (Verve Design)
16:00 - 16:30 Zircon thriving and substitution in ceramic tiles: Dr Francisco Javier García Tan (ITC)
16:30 - 17:00 Advanced understanding of zircon quality: Emma Jones (University of Birmingham)
17:00 Closing remarks, end of Day 1
17:30 - 18:30 Welcome Cocktail Reception (Palm Garden, Park Hyatt hotel)
18:30 Transfer to banquet venue
19:00 - 22:00 Conference Banquet Dinner

Conference sponsors



Day 2: Thursday 5th September

08:00 - 10:00 Registration desk open
08:15 - 08:30 Welcome and safety briefing
08:30 - 09:15 Navigating extreme global volatility - risks & opportunities: Robert Ward (EIU)
09:15 - 09:45 Shipping NORM - complex shipments in a complicated world: Kurtis Hinz (President, TAM)
09:45 - 10:15 A clean manufacturing process for high-purity zirconium: Prof Jong-Hyeon Lee (ZIRON Tech Co)
10:15 - 10:45 Water crisis for China's chemical zirconium industry: Alister MacDonald (Alkane)
10:45 - 11:00 • Interval: tea / coffee / networking •
11:00 - 11:30 Zirconium in the nuclear power industry: Simon Marshall (INEL)
11:30 - 12:00 Zircon demands in foundry investment casting applications: Carlos Olabe (EICF)
12:00 - 12:30 USA regulatory developments - minefield or opportunity? : Charles Simmons
12:30 - 13:00 Zirconates - new uses and applications: Roberto Dante (2D to 3D)
13:00 - 13:15 Closing remarks and end of conference
13:30 • Lunch (The Thai Kitchen, Park Hyatt Dubai Creek) •

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Keynote speakers



Abdallah Massaad

Group CEO, RAK Ceramics

Abdallah has more than 23 years' experience in ceramics manufacturing, sales management, product marketing and business leadership. Prior to joining RAK Ceramics, he was GM of ICC SARL, Lebanon.

Abdallah holds post graduate qualifications in management and an undergraduate degree (Maitrise in Business Administration - Marketing) from Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik, Lebanon.



Robert Ward

Editorial Director, Economist Intelligence Unit

Robert leads the EIU's country, industry and data analysis and forecasting teams. In this position he plays a key role in shaping the EIU's response to events and in overseeing the suite of core subscription products. He also has oversight of the editorial integrity and independence of all EIU-branded businesses within the Economist Group. Prior to joining EIU, he worked in Tokyo in Japan's largest bond rating agency.

Robert holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Cambridge University.

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Conference speakers



Lincoln Ying • CEO, Matrix

Lincoln has over 39 years' experience in the chemical industry gained while working at Celanese, J&J Dental and Arkema. He has been awarded 8 U.S. patents, authored numerous publications and was awarded a NASA Research Award from Langley on high performance polymer and processes. He has over 18 years' senior management experience in Asia Pacific, including direct responsibilities for operations in Japan, Korea, China and India. Lincoln retired as Regional Group President Asia Pacific, Arkema in 2010 and joined Matrix through an LBO as President and GM.



Gavin Diener • COO of TZ Minerals International (TZMI)

Gavin has technical, management and business skills gained through experience in plant operation, pilot plant test work, plant design and commissioning, process optimisation, business analysis, operations management and product development. Prior to TZMI, he spent 16 years at the Anglo American Group in mineral sands, gold and iron operations. He previously also worked at the Namakwa Sands project where he was involved in smelting and minerals processing before becoming Operations Manager responsible for the mineral separation business unit. He graduated from the University of Natal with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.



Beth Xiang • International Department, Ruidow

Beth has over 10 years' experience in mineral products related work including: successfully developing an Algerian steel plant project, extensive experience working in Africa and Eastern Europe as well as trading ferrosilicon, manganese ore and slag. She has a wealth of practical experience in strategic investment projects and mining trade business. She joined Ruidow in 20015.



Deepak Dinesh Prabakaran • Verve Design

Deepak is a seasoned architect and professional in Design Build delivery systems. He has led a wide range of projects from master plan to private residences. His particular interest is in Mixed Use Centres and Real Estate Planning & Development. Deepak holds a degree from the School of Architecture and Planning, Chennai, India, and a Master's degree from the School of Design and Environment, NUS Singapore.



Francisco Javier García Tan • Vice Director, ITC-AICE

Javier is the Vice Director of ITC-AICE and Head of the Area for Ceramic Materials and Technologies. The Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica (ITC), is the centre created by the Ceramic Industry Research Association (AICE) and the Universitat Jaume I (UJI) of Castellón, Spain. It was established in 1969 in response to the needs and demands of companies from the local ceramic cluster. ITC has, over the years, developed partnerships between the university and businesses that has contributed significantly to the development of the Spanish ceramic tile manufacturing industry.

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Conference speakers continued



Emma Jones • University of Birmingham

Emma is studying towards an Engineering Doctorate in Formulation Engineering at the University of Birmingham, UK. Working at the High Temperature Research Centre and in collaboration with Rolls-Royce, the focus of her research is in understanding raw material variation on investment casting refractories. Her main topics of interest include mining and mineral processing, powder characterisation techniques and shell mould formulation. Emma holds a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering.



Kurtis Hinz • President, TAM

Kurtis joined TAM International in 2005, serving as the Business Development Manager and then as VP Marketing. Kurtis was appointed President of TAM International in 2011 and is based at the company's head office in Saskatoon, SK Canada. Kurtis is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.



Jong-Hyeon Lee • Ziron Tech Co

Jong-Hyeon Lee is a Professor at the Department of Materials Science & Engineering, Chungnam National University, Korea and CEO at Ziron Tech Co.



Alister MacDonald • General Manager- Marketing, Alkane Resources

Alister is General Manager-Marketing of Alkane Resources, a multi-commodity mining and exploration company developing its flagship Dubbo Project, a new source of critical metals, in New South Wales, Australia. He has over 30 years' international experience in various capacities across the zirconium/hafnium industry, from mineral sands to zirconium chemicals and precursors, and technical ceramics components. He has an in-depth understanding of the key issues facing critical metals supply from China and elsewhere.



Simon Marshall • Director, INEL

With almost 40 years' experience in the nuclear industry, Simon is a director of INEL which provides independent nuclear expertise across the nuclear fuel cycle. Simon has had various roles in the industry; notably with Springfields, BNFL, PBMR (S. Africa) and Westinghouse. In 2011, he became involved in nuclear new build where he led the project team that gained interim Design Acceptance Confirmation for the API000© reactor from the UK Office for Nuclear Regulation. In 2016 he was appointed Managing Director, Westinghouse UK Fuel Operations, responsible for the running of the Springfields site.

Simon is a graduate of Manchester University (Physics), a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

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Conference speakers continued



Carlos Olabe • CEO, European Investment Casters Federation

Carlos has been CEO of EICF since the end of 2014. He has over 20 years' experience in the aerospace industry including as Programmes Director of the Engine company of Spain (ITP) where he managed engine programmes such as EJ200, Trent 700, Trent 800, Trent 500, Trent 900 and 10 years as CEO of Precision Casting Bilbao.



Charles Simmons

Charles Simmons is an attorney practicing in Washington, D.C. He has over 25 years' experience in environment, safety and health issues relating to industrial minerals, particularly NORM in zircon and zirconia. He has been invited to speak at the International Atomic Energy Agency's NORM IX symposium in Denver, Colorado (23 - 27 September 2019).



Roberto Dante • MD and principal researcher of 2D to 3D

Roberto is MD of 2D to 3D, a knowledge-based company devoted to engineering of new materials. He has authored numerous papers on nano-technologies, several patents, and a book entitled 'Friction materials and their applications'. Current research interests include using carbon nitride materials to obtain efficient photocatalysts to carry out water splitting, the development of new ceramic materials for friction automotive applications and zirconates. Roberto graduated in chemistry at the University of Turin, and received a PhD cum laude in Materials Science & Engineering at UNAM, Mexico City. He was Professor at Monterrey Technology Institute, Mexico City from 1998 to 2005 and received the Alfonso Caso Medal in 2008 by UNAM.